

VIEW FROM THE CAB

# Expectations in yields exceeding previous years

Yield expectations are pretty high heading into this harvest season after last week's Pro Farmer Midwest Crop Tour.

The area counties of Vermilion, Iroquois, Livingston, Ford and McLean had an average corn yield of 202.4 bushels per acre. Illinois soybeans didn't look bad either — with high pod counts at various locations.

"We anticipated we would see that," Brian Grede, editor of Pro Farmer newsletter, told me during the recent tour stop in Bloomington.

The 2016 Illinois average ended up being 193.5, which is well ahead of the three-year average of 179.69. This year's Illinois pod count in a 3x3 square averaged 1318.09, which is also up from the three-year average of 1201.87.

Pioneer field agronomist Kelli Bassett told tour participants that observations between 2014 and this year were similar. For those of you who may not remember, 2014 saw nice yields in this area. She noted the corn is still very green for a fairly mature crop. That signifies healthy plants which weren't under too much stress this season. We have not seeing the nitrogen loss or firing like we have the past few seasons.

According to Bassett, some soybeans are podded higher from the ground this year because the plants are so tall.

"Big beans don't always mean big yields," she noted.

Bassett came to the conclusion that we have a "pretty good" crop across the part of the state she works in.

Corn silage is now happening in the area and, any week now, we will see a combine or two try to harvest corn out in the field. We anxiously await those early yield results as this could be a bin-busting year out in the countryside.

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**Kent Casson**  
Ag Columnist

## REUNION

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cancelled.

"The show's never been completely cancelled," Rients said. "There've been times when it was messy out here that we've closed the gates for the first couple days, but it's never been completely cancelled."

"Closing the gates the first couple of days was kind of where we were at yesterday," Herz added. "We'd do our opening ceremony and then close the ground until Saturday. But with the rain we got yesterday, and the 40 percent chance of rain today, we made the unfortunate decision to shut it down."

The vice presidents noted that they had

threshing enthusiasts coming from as far away as New England with engines and other equipment, and that they were actively trying to get into contact with as many out-of-town travelers coming to the park to inform them of the cancellation.

Herz and Rients were unsure of the fate of Sunday's Threshermen's Parade in Pontiac, and said that those who'd brought tractors and engines out for the Reunion would have to make that determination to participate on their own.

However, Chamber of Commerce executive director Mindi Terrell and Chamber marketing associate Deb Howard confirmed that the parade would still be on after the Reunion officials made

their announcement. Howard said that the Chamber fully expects most of the engines and tractors that usually take part in the parade would be present Sunday, due to the local makeup of the parade's annual participants.



**Central States Threshermen's Reunion Vice President Dave Herz expressed his disappointment Wednesday morning shortly after the announcement came of the cancellation of the Reunion.** JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

## LABOR

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the rate of unemployment in the area.

"Given the substantial capital investment and hiring announcements by multiple employers, I am not surprised Livingston County's unemployment rate has

Dontz said. "The GLCEDC has worked with Anthony Liftgates of Pontiac, Caterpillar of Pontiac, RKO Saw of Cullom and Selig Sealing of Forrest to implement hiring incentives and/or property tax abatements recognizing their job creation and building expansions.

"Collectively, these companies have announced over 190 new jobs and nearly 30,000 square feet of

building expansion."

In its release, the IDES added that, over the year, non-farm payroll employment was unchanged at 14,000. Manufacturing and financial activities had the largest increases in employment, while the trade, transportation and utilities, educational-health services and leisure-hospitality sectors had the largest declines from a year ago.

## POT

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More are using marijuana, using it more often and far fewer think it's risky, the government survey found.

That's understandable, experts say, as dozens of states now allow medical marijuana and four states have recently legalized pot

for recreational use.

More than a half million U.S. adults participated in the survey over a dozen years, and the responses show a shift in attitude. Only a third of adults in 2014 said they thought weekly marijuana use was dangerous, down from half of adults in 2002.

That runs counter to scientific research about pot, said Dr. Wilson Compton,

lead author of the study published online Wednesday by the journal *Lancet Psychiatry*.

"If anything, science has shown an increasing risk that we weren't as aware of years ago," said Compton, deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Other research has increasingly linked marijuana use to mental

impairment, and early, heavy use by people with certain genes to increased risk of developing psychosis, he noted.

A highlight of the report, which compared 2002 to 2014, was that about 1 in 8 adults said they used marijuana in the past year, up from 1 in 10. The number of marijuana users grew to about 32 million.

## TRUMP

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when pressed by reporters.

While he and Pena Nieto talked about the wall, Trump said they didn't discuss who would pay for a cost of construction pegged in the billions.

"Having a secure border is a sovereign right and mutually beneficial," Trump said, reading from prepared remarks. "We recognize and respect the right of any country to build a physical barrier or wall on any of its borders to stop the illegal movement of people, drugs and weapons. Cooperation toward achieving this shared objective — and it will be shared — of safety for all citizens is paramount to both the United States and to Mexico."

Trump's presence on Wednesday, his first meeting with a head of state abroad as a presidential candidate, sparked anger and protests across Mexico's capital city. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox bluntly told the celebrity businessman that, despite Pena Nieto's hospitality, he was not welcome.

"We don't like him. We don't want him. We reject his visit," Fox said on CNN, calling the trip a "political stunt."

Pena Nieto was less combative as he addressed reporters alongside Trump. He acknowledged the two men had differences and defended the contribution of Mexicans working in the United States, but he described the conversation as "open and constructive." He and Trump shook hands as the session ended.

Pena Nieto's performance came in for immediate condemnation from his many critics in Mexico.

"Pena ended up forgiving Trump when he didn't even ask for an apology," said Esteban Illades, the editor of *Nexos* magazine. "The lowest point of the most painful day in the history of the Mexican presidency."

After saying during his

Republican primary campaign he would use a "deportation force" to expel all of the estimated 11 million people living in the United States illegally, Trump suggested last week he could soften that stance.

But he still says he plans to build a huge wall — paid for by Mexico — along the two nations' border. He is under pressure to clarify just where he stands in the Wednesday night speech, which had been rescheduled several times.

Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence,

told CBS earlier in the day that Trump would make clear "that there will be no path to legalization, no path to citizenship. People will need to leave the country to be able to obtain legal status or obtain citizenship."

The buildup to the speech was abruptly interrupted Tuesday night by the news that Trump would visit Mexico, accepting on short notice an invitation offered last week by Pena Nieto. The newspaper *El Universal* wrote in an editorial that Trump "caught Mexican diplomats off guard."

Campaigning in Ohio earlier in the day, Democrat Hillary Clinton jabbed at Trump's Mexican appearance as she promoted her own experience working with foreign leaders as the nation's chief diplo-

mat.

"People have to get to know that they can count on you, that you won't say one thing one day and something totally different the next," she told the American Legion in

Cincinnati. "And it certainly takes more than trying to make up for a year of insults and insinuations by dropping in on our neighbors for a few hours and then flying home again."

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# LABOR DAY

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